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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/668,936	09/23/2003	Michele Sanicola-Nadel	13751-045003	3298
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EXAMINER HARRIS, ALANA M				
ART UNIT 1643		PAPER NUMBER		
NOTIFICATION DATE 12/10/2008		DELIVERY MODE ELECTRONIC		

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

PATDOCTC@fr.com

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/668,936

Applicant(s)

SANICOLA-NADEL ET AL.

Examiner

Alana M. Harris, Ph.D.

Art Unit

1643

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 04 November 2008.
2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-13 is/are pending in the application.
4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
5) ☒ Claim(s) 3-5 and 11-13 is/are allowed.
6) ☒ Claim(s) 1, 2 and 6-10 is/are rejected.
7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/S5108)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 11/04/2008
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Request for Continued Examination

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on November 04, 2008 has been entered.

2. Claims 1-13 are pending.

Claims 1-13 are examined on the merits.

Maintained Grounds of Rejection

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

3. The rejection of claims 1, 2 and 6-10 under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as containing subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention is maintained.

Applicants continue to assert the disclosed RetL3 proteins constitute a functional polypeptide that interacts with the receptor tyrosine kinase Ret and the skilled person would readily expect that the claimed polypeptides would likely be amenable to change without eliminating biological activity, see paragraph bridging pages 2 and 3 of the

Remarks submitted July 16, 2007. These points of view and arguments have been carefully considered, but found unpersuasive. These points of view and arguments have been carefully considered, but found unpersuasive.

Applicants continue not to be in possession of all proteins that have reduced sequence homology to wild type proteins, SEQ ID NO: 17 and SEQ ID NO: 21. The written description in this case only sets forth Ret ligands as listed in claims 3-5 and 11-13. As noted in the Advisory Action mailed July 15, 2008, the two species Applicants' point out, human RetL3 (SEQ ID NO: 21) and the murine RetL3 (SEQ ID NO: 17) only share 76.8% identity and do not share at least 80% identity as the claims read on so they are not reliable species to base arguments upon. Applicants' arguments and specification do not note which amino acids are critical to the disclosed function; which amino acids can be changed without destroying the conformation of the polypeptides thus not allowing trigger dimerization of the receptor protein Ret and autophosphorylation of a tyrosine kinase domain of the receptor protein Ret; and what are the domains within SEQ ID NO: 17 and SEQ ID NO: 21 that must be maintained to facilitate the claimed functions. The nexus between the structure and the function of the claimed proteins with reduced sequence homology has not been set forth. When there is substantial variation with the genus, such as in the instant case one must describe a sufficient variety of species to reflect the variation within the genus, see 1242 Official Gazette 174, January 30, 2001. A genus that embraces widely variant species cannot be achieved by disclosing only one species with the genus. Applicants' claims embody a host of polypeptides, which has not been provided within the specification. Applicants

seem to only be in possession of SEQ ID NO: 17 and 21. As noted in the first action on the merits (FAOM) mailed September 27, 2006 adequate written description requires more than a mere statement that it is part of the invention and a reference to a potential method of isolating it. The polypeptide itself is required known to definitively not eliminate biological activity. For the reasons of record the rejection is maintained.

Allowable Subject Matter

4. Claims 3-5 and 11-13 are allowed.

Conclusion

5. All claims are drawn to the same invention claimed in the application prior to the entry of the submission under 37 CFR 1.114 and could have been finally rejected on the grounds and art of record in the next Office action if they had been entered in the application prior to entry under 37 CFR 1.114. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL** even though it is a first action after the filing of a request for continued examination and the submission under 37 CFR 1.114. See MPEP § 706.07(b). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any

extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the Examiner should be directed to Alana M. Harris, Ph.D. whose telephone number is (571) 272-0831. The Examiner works a flexible schedule, however she can normally be reached between the hours of 7:30 am to 6:30 pm, Monday through Saturday with alternate Fridays off.

If attempts to reach the Examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Larry R. Helms, Ph.D. can be reached on (571) 272-0832. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

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Alana M. Harris, Ph.D.
02 December 2008

/Alana M. Harris, Ph.D./

Primary Examiner, Art Unit 1643